



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast

June 20, 2016

Christopher M. Moore, PhD, Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
800 North State Street, Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council Comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Regarding Request for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Formal Consultation with NMFS on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Related to the Proposed Mid- and South Atlantic Geological and Geophysical (G&G) Activities

Dear Dr. Moore,

The North Carolina Coastal Federation has submitted comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting a supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a formal consultation with NMFS on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), in regards to the proposed Mid- and South Atlantic Geological and Geophysical (G&G) activities. A copy of this letter was sent to you for your information.

We thank the Council for opposing seismic surveys in the Mid- and South Atlantic regions. The Council's leadership on this issue has brought great attention to the potential cumulative impacts of G&G activities in the Atlantic. In addition to the large numbers of estimated Level A and Level B takes of marine mammals, the proposed G&G activities have the potential to seriously impact the health of various marine species population that the Council has been tasked with managing.

Referenced in the federation's letter, there are several scientific studies that were not included in BOEM's original PEIS from 2014, that shed light on the notion that new information is available that may change the agency's assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposed activity. It is for this reason that we ask BOEM to prepare a supplemental PEIS for the proposed G&G activities, in addition to entering into formal consultation with NMFS on EFH.

We respectfully ask the Council to submit a letter to both agencies requesting these same actions be taken to properly enumerate and make transparent the true impacts of the proposed G&G surveys..

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you again for your leadership on this issue.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ladd Bayliss", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Ladd Bayliss
Coastal Advocate